

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 195
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to honor Nate Street on the occasion of his
retirement as a radio announcer for WKSR.

#6 “Any familiar, long-established person, thing or practice; fixture”

The Random House Dictionary of the English Language 1983

WHEREAS, it was with much regret that we learned that Nate Street, a longtime fixture at Giles County radio station WKSR and a Tennessee radio institution, has retired; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Street first developed his lifelong affinity for microphones as the public address announcer for the Sunday afternoon baseball games, games that were played in sight of his Wrigley home in Hickman County. The teams were called “independent teams”, because they were composed of men from various communities who formed a league and moved their fierce rivalries from ballpark to ballpark on summer weekends; and

WHEREAS, after a few years of perfecting his radio skill, he entered the Tennessee School of Broadcasting in Nashville to train for a career as a radio announcer. The renowned WLAC announcer John Richbourg and other Nashville radio personalities served as his instructors and mentors; and

WHEREAS, Nate Street’s first job was at WKSR where he auditioned and was hired by the owner, the late John R. “Happy” Stephens and his wife, Beechie, in 1954; and

WHEREAS, “Uncle Nate” quickly became popular as the host of a weekly half-hour children’s program on Saturday mornings, playing records and reading stories; and

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WHEREAS, after three years, he left WKSR and became a disc jockey for WKDA, then a low-powered rock and roll AM station in Nashville. Before long, he presided over the top- rated show in the Nashville market; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. Street became a disc jockey at WCKY, a 50,000 -watt station in Cincinnati. His program, which featured what is now termed "easy listening music", originated from the Colony Restaurant and drew fan mail from virtually every state and several foreign countries. During the four years of the program, Nate was known as "Stan Street"; and

WHEREAS, after WCKY was sold in 1963, he accepted an offer from Columbia's WMCP to be their early morning personality, generally regarded as the best spot at the station; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Street returned to Pulaski in 1964, for a visit, received a job offer to return to WKSR and settled in for what would become a long and colorful reign as the station's "morning mayor" with a 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. time slot; and

WHEREAS, a beloved Giles County institution, he does not own a watch and never sets an alarm clock, and still arrives at the studios before 5:00 a.m., day after day, year after year, with almost perfect attendance; and

WHEREAS, Street's demeanor on the telephone is legendary. His "Swap 'n Shop" program was a favorite with thousands of Giles Countains, who never missed a show because of their unpredictability. They loved the thoughtful banter he carried on with callers, recognizing most of them instantly by their voices and casually asking about some personal matter that let his listeners know he knew who was calling; and

WHEREAS, for the past 15 years, medical problems forced him to limit his involvement with the station almost entirely to his early morning program; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to salute the accomplishments of Nate Street and honor him on his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor Nate Street for his numerous contributions to radio broadcasting, station WKSR and Giles County and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.